

Our Readers Speak

Iron Curtain Broadcasting

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Most American broadcasts to Soviet Russia and Eastern Europe continue to be based on the "We are always right, you are always wrong" theme. They continue to be inspired by an, on the whole, insincere belief in the divinity and ultimate perfection of our way of life. We talk of our way of life in terms of almost religious adoration, and as there is little conviction behind it, it sounds false. We preach altogether too much to people who are tired of preaching and are desperately looking for ways of getting on with the job and improving their lot.

Toward the East European nations we continue to be largely negative, not perhaps directly stirring up trouble, but half hoping that it will follow, with complete disregard for the lesson of Hungary, or for the existence of vast arsenals of nuclear weapons.

What, then, should we do?

We should talk in a calm, friendly way, explaining our way of life, our difficulties and our attempts to overcome them, our achievements and our ideas.

Instead of hiding the clash of opinion which is inherent in democratic society, we should sharply underline it and be proud of it, for it is one of the strongest of all attractions we can offer.

We should be as objective as possible in our presentation of news and commentary. We should project a realistic, not a fairy-tale, picture of our society.

We should not engage in fruitless polemics.

We should not neglect talking to the Communists, or to those who call themselves Communists, for the process of change lies largely in their hands. They have the power, and the new generation seems more fanatical than the old, seems more practically minded. It may well be that we shall find it willing to agree with us, but not if we run it down and all its achievements, whole-

ly lip-service is being paid in some propaganda organizations to the above principles. But in actual fact those who try to implement them are either dismissed or forced to leave, by the "They are right, we are white; they are wrong, we are right" brigade. And so the old song continues, at odds both with reality and internal politics, and making people in Eastern Europe define our broadcasts as "Moscow in reverse."

But we deserve better.

NOEL BERNARD.

London.